



WESTPORT CHARTERBOAT ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 654 • WESTPORT, WASHINGTON 98595

February 12, 2001

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Russ Cahill, Chairman
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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WDFW
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners;

This letter is to thank you for voting to legalize "boat limits" at your last meeting. Our Association is fully aware of the difficulty you encountered in this contentious issue. We have been informed by WDFW staff that the "spirit" of this proposal is that, although the practice would become legal, we are expected to do everything within our abilities to promote the practice of each person catching his own limit. Although many of our members presently do what they can to attain that result, we will redouble our efforts to promote a policy that is highly acceptable to the public.

In regard to questions asked at the meeting about groundfish species management, we are well aware of the condition of certain species and the need to rebuild them:

The staff presentation showing (ocean) Lingcod at 9 percent of virgin biomass led to a reduction in bag limit from 3 to 1 over a two-year period. Subsequent information placed Lingcod closer to the 25 percent threshold and indicated that rebuilding was occurring. Consequently it was viewed that the cut from 3 to 1 was not warranted and a 2 fish bag was acceptable within the constraints of the rebuilding program.

We recognize that Canary and Yelloweye rockfish are in critical condition. In response to that knowledge, we reduced our impacts on those stocks substantially in 2000 compared to 1999. We will continue to avoid them.

Respectfully Yours,


Mark Cedergreen
Executive Director

Cc Jeff Koenings
Phil Anderson

Jeff,
Thanks for your
support!
Mark

